

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY	Korea	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Soviet Naval Activities near the Soviet-North Korean Border	DATE DISTR.	12 November 1953
		NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.		REQUIREMENT NO.	RD
PLACE ACQUIRED		REFERENCES	50X1-HUM

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1. On 2 April 1953 two 20-ton Soviet wooden ships were patrolling the area near the mouth of the Tumen River at the Soviet-North Korean border. The ships came from Mukho, 40 miles northeast of the Soviet-North Korean border, once every 5 days. Each ship had an approximate speed of 60-mph and was manned by 20 Soviet sailors. Each ship was armed with two heavy machine guns, mounted on turrets which were 1 meter high and on each end of the ship.
2. The Soviet security ships apprehended 11 North Korean fishing vessels of the Unggi, Ch'ongjin, Songjin, and Naksan fisheries; and 9 ships belonging to private concerns. These ships were apprehended on various dates; 10 April 1948, 3 May 1949, 5 May 1952, and 2 April 1953. Apprehended ships were sent to either Mukho or Zarubin where the crews were questioned by a Soviet senior lieutenant who was stationed on a Soviet 2-ton vessel. The lieutenant, with the aid of a Korean interpreter, checked the number, ownership, license, and voyage certificate of each ship; also the personal histories and party affiliations of all members involved. When asked why they had violated the boundary line, the fishermen answered that they did not know of any boundary restrictions and were just fishing. The ships and crews were detained from 6 days to one month, during which time they received medical care and a meager food ration. Upon release, they were warned not to violate the boundary and to tell other fishermen of the boundary restrictions. A Soviet security ship escorted the Korean vessels to the Soviet-North Korean border where they were released to the custody of the North Korean Navy. They were then taken to Ch'ongjin harbor where they were again questioned and warned against the boundary restrictions.
3. On 2 April 1953 Korean vessels which were taken to Mukho were anchored 1 kilometer from shore. These ships were guarded by a Soviet security ship which was 200 meters away. They were approximately 40 houses in the village, and these were supplied with electricity. The vessels which were taken to Zarubin were detained 5 meters from shore and guarded from the shore. There was only one pier in Zarubin harbor. Five 20-ton ships and three scows were anchored in the

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harbor. A large canning factory was in Zarubin. This factory employed 100 laborers, 30 of whom were North Korean contract laborers. There were approximately 50 houses in the village.

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1. ☐ Comment. Mikho and Zarubin are both Korean pronunciations of Russian names, and although no coordinates were given, they probably are both on the Zarubin Peninsula (N 42-37, E 131-05).

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